

Water recycling and desalinization projects are proven technologies that can help stretch limited water supplies in areas such as Texas and the West.

I want to express our full support for this legislation. I offer my congratulations to Congressman EDWARDS for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the hard-working Member from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), who works tirelessly for his district.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Mr. UDALL for his kind comments, and both Mr. UDALL and Mr. PEARCE for their excellent floor management of all of these bills today.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and Nation have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. That is why I introduced H.R. 3418, the Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2006. This bill will authorize Federal matching funds, 25 percent Federal, 75 percent local, to help build an innovative water recycling program partnership in my home town of Waco, Texas, and several neighboring communities in McLennan County.

Instead of wasting valuable drinking water for use in factories and on golf courses, we will be able to use lower-cost recycled wastewater for those purposes and save enough drinking water for 20,000 family households in McLennan County. The bottom line is this: being good stewards of our water supply, we will reduce water costs for businesses, save central Texas taxpayers millions of dollars, encourage economic growth in our area, and improve water quality in our central Texas rivers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman POMBO and ranking member RAHALL for their support of this measure, and the subcommittee chairman, Mr. RADANOVICH, the ranking subcommittee member, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, for their key role in this bill's passage. This is the kind of bipartisan effort that shows what Congress can accomplish when we work together on a bipartisan basis.

I also want to thank the mayor, city council, and staff in the cities of Waco, Lorena, Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Bellmead and Lacy-Lakeview for their cooperative efforts that made this bill's passage possible.

Finally, I want to extend special credit to the city of Waco, my hometown, to its city manager, Larry Groth, for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. Without his leadership, hard work and professionalism, we would not be here today. And as a citizen of Waco, I am grateful for his outstanding service to my hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I urge bipartisan passage of H.R. 3418.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to my colleagues, Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. UDALL, for their work on this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3418, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ITALY UPON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE 2006 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 697) congratulating the people and Government of Italy, the Torino Olympic Organizing Committee, the International Olympic Committee, the United States Olympic Committee, the 2006 United States Olympic Team, and all international athletes upon the successful completion of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 697

Whereas from February 17 to February 26, 2006, Turin, Italy, hosted the 2006 Olympic Winter Games;

Whereas this is the third time Italy has hosted the Olympic Games, with the prior Winter Games having been held in 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo and the Summer Games having been held in 1960 in Rome;

Whereas the people of Turin and the surrounding Alpine areas have opened their hearts to the world, demonstrated their passions for sports, art, and culture, and strengthened the bonds between the city of Turin and the surrounding Alpine areas;

Whereas the city of Turin accommodated nearly 2,600 athletes, more than 2,700 trainers and escorts, 18,000 volunteers, 9,500 members of the media, and nearly 1,000,000 spectators at 7 competition sites and 3 Olympic villages;

Whereas in light of a global terror threat, Italian authorities implemented extraordinary security measures and successfully coordinated the efforts of 10,000 police officers and 2,500 Italian military personnel, providing effective and efficient protection, while also ensuring a secure and stable environment for both athletes and spectators alike;

Whereas through the stewardship of the International Olympic Committee and the Torino Olympic Organizing Committee, athletes representing 80 different countries competed in 15 disciplines of winter sport with the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, furthering the Olympic legacy of "peace between nations, equality, fair play, loyalty and respect";

Whereas well over 200 members of the United States Olympic Team participated in the Games and embodied the spirit of this Nation with resolve and determination and won 25 medals, including 9 gold medals;

Whereas 477 athletes from 39 countries competed for 9 days in March 2006 in Turin

at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, which were organized in 1948 as a venue for injured World War II veterans to compete, demonstrating not an individual's disability, but rather the individual's achievements in athleticism; and

Whereas the United States Olympic Team ranked second among all nations in the number of medals won at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games and the United States Paralympic Team ranked seventh among all nations in the number of medals won at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people and Government of Italy, and specifically the people of Turin and the surrounding Alpine areas, the Torino Olympic Organizing Committee, and the International Olympic Committee on the successful completion of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games;

(2) congratulates the United States Olympic Committee, the 2006 United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams, and all international athletes for their outstanding performances at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games; and

(3) expresses gratitude to the thousands of volunteers and others who made the 2006 Olympic Winter Games exciting, safe, and successful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request my colleagues' support of House Resolution 697, a resolution congratulating the people and the Government of Italy, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams, and other individuals and committees from around the world on the successful completion of the 20th Winter Olympic Games, which were held in Turin, Italy.

"Passion Lives Here" was the slogan for the Italian Winter Games. The world watched the Games from the opening to the closing ceremonies and witnessed the emotion of the event that stems from thousands of athletes and trainers from every corner of the globe participating in a competition that knows no border or political dispute.

For North and South Korea to march together for the first time during a Winter Olympics opening ceremony, although these two countries are still technically at war, the hope for continued progress toward peace among many differing nations was clearly evident.

This is what the spirit of the Olympics means for all of us for a few short

weeks every 4 years. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, since September 11, the entire world has been transformed. Now, unprecedented levels of security are required to protect Olympic athletes and their teams from attacks.

After all, the Olympic Games were once the target of horrifying attacks on athletes by terrorists. This resolution commends our good friends and allies, the people and Government of Italy, for their extraordinary efforts in protecting the world's athletes during these games.

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To implement such an extraordinary security measure while also ensuring the fun, passionate Olympic environment is something not many countries can do with such successful orchestration.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Olympic Committee and team should also be congratulated for winning 25 medals during these Winter Games, nine of them gold, second only to the team's record for the number of medals won at the Winter Games that was set during the Salt Lake City games; and the United States Paralympic team ranks seventh among all nations in the number of medals won during the Paralympic Winter Games.

I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to each of our medal winners who shall forever make the United States proud.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

I would first like to thank my good friend and colleague, Chairman HENRY HYDE, for sponsoring this measure.

Mr. Speaker, just a few months ago, Italy hosted the winter Olympic Games in Torino. We want to congratulate the people and the government of Italy for the great success of these games.

The Torino Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Committee, and the United States Olympic Committee should be commended for these games, which were effectively and successfully organized and implemented.

The slogan of the games, Mr. Speaker, was "Passion Lives Here," which was certainly an accurate depiction of the enthusiasm, passion and pride the Italian people have not only for sports but also for their wonderful culture and heritage. The welcoming attitude they displayed to citizens of over 80 nations of the world who sent Olympic athletes and guests was outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend those involved with the security aspect of the games. As we all know, this kind of world gathering unfortunately presents potential terrorist opportunities. The Italian government and security officials performed magnificently. The venue was stable and secure for athletes, officials and spectators.

These games have many memorable moments and many new records were made, but, for me, the highlight of the Torino Winter Games came when a 26-year-old American speed skater, Joey Cheek, announced that he would donate his \$40,000 in bonus money to an organization called Right to Play, which helps children in poverty-stricken, war-torn countries in Africa. Joey also encouraged Olympic sponsors to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, Joey did not stop there. Just 2 days ago, tens of thousands of us rallied on the National Mall to call attention to the sickening and outrageous genocide occurring as we speak in Darfur, Sudan. It was my great pleasure to stand side by side with Joey Cheek at this rally where we both spoke to prod the international community not to forget the people of Darfur and to act to stop this genocide.

Joey Cheek's actions on behalf of the people of Africa, both at the Olympics and on the Mall, typify the true Olympic spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Italy for keeping this Olympic spirit alive. These Torino games rekindled the spirit for another 4 years. It is important that, just as we have seen in these Italian games, the Olympics best demonstrate the spirit of competition and the spirit of selflessness that Joey Cheek and other athletes have typified.

This was the third time Italy has hosted the Olympic games, and judging by the welcoming attitude and success of the Torino games, we look forward to future Olympic events in Italy.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 697, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 392) recognizing the 58th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 392

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past five years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas visionary Israeli leaders like Yitzhak Rabin and Ariel Sharon were at the forefront of creating conditions for peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with May 3, 2006: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being;

(3) congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral relations in the past year in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges; and

(4) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 58th anniversary of Israel's independence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.